CIHM
Microfiche
Series
(Monographs)

ICMH
Collection de
microfiches
(monographies)

Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

©1994

MAYOR MACKINTOSH'S

Third Annual Address

Exposition of the City's Financial Position.

1881.

JS 1766
M3

MAYOR MACKINTOSH'S INAUGURAL.

THIRD ANNUAL ADDRESS, 1881.

Gentlemen of the Council :—

For the third time the electorate have conferred upon me the distinguished honor of appointing me chief magistrate of the capital of the Dominion. For a third time, every ward in the city has recorded an unmsitakable vote in my favor, and in addressing you this evening, upon the financial and general affairs of this municipality, I realize more than ever the great responsibility resting upon me, as well as upon those who have been selected as the people's representatives, for the various divisions of the city. That we may prove ourselves worthy stewards; that we may at all times exercise discretion, being guided by judgment and not misled by passion; that we may know neither one section nor an other specially, but labor industriously, free from fear, favor or affection in the interests of the Corporation as a whole—is not only my heartfelt wish, but must be the desire of every well thinking, public spirited citizen. As year follows year, and I become more thoroughly conversant with municipal matters, and as experience teaches me—as I am sure it has taught many others—to rise above mere personal considerations, adopting the line of duty first, and prompting me to take broader and more elevated views of questions to be discussed and decided, I realize how powerless I am to accomplish what ratepayers fondly hope for, unless I have the confidence of those surrounding the Council board, as well as that active, earnest public sympathy which strengthens the hands of those who have important interests to protect and sometimes unpleasant duties to discharge.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

If you will permit me, I desire to lay before this Council a digest of receipts and expenditures for 1880, the figures being now complete—although I am of opinion that there are a few outstanding accounts and charges yet to be borne by the revenue of that year:—

RECEIPTS, 1880.

Market tolls for year	$ 9,283 98
" stall rents	4,322 50
Licenses, tavern, shop, &c	13,763 84
" Carters	976 00
Carried forward	$28,356 32

Brought forward		$28,356 32	
Licenses, Auctioneers		750 00	
" Livery stables		210 00	
" Circus		200 00	
" Pedlars		20 00	
" Billiards		90 00	
" Ball alley		15 00	
" Pigeon hole		20 00	
" Bagatelle		60 00	
Grades on the streets		39 00	
Clergy reserves, Ontario Government		276 50	
Fines and fees, Police Court		2,569 18	
Dog tax		744 50	
		33,340 50	
Water works sinking fund account		11,700 00	
			$ 45,040 50
Local rates collected to 31st December		12,734 94	
Local rates, balance on rolls		57,951 56	
			70,687 50
Expenditure	$114,695 68		
Less accounts of 1879 paid	3,820 94		
		110,873 74	
Excess of receipts		4,854 26	
Total revenue		115,728 00	$115,728 00

EXPENDITURE, 1880.

Police department	$16,686 89
Fire "	12,011 88
Salaries account	13,464 76
Street Improvements	14,408 51
Major's Hill Park	800 00
Markets	3,751 68
Board of Health	4,471 34
Charity account	1,579 91
Street lights	14,746 21
Gaol and jury expenses	11,287 18
Instalments and interest	5,407 00
Interest account	7,643 53
Registry Office	110 02
Election expenses	695 00
Inquest	97 00
Printing and advertising	1,571 90
Stationery	248 15
City Hall account	946 03
Corporation Gratns	1,800 00
Insurance	626 60
Legal expenses	848 76
Refunds of taxes, &c	377 11
Miscellaneous	1,115 21
Total expenditure	$114,694 68

Of which $3,820 94 are accounts of 1879 paid in 1880, as follows:—

Arrears of gaol and jury expenses paid	$2,382 31	
Interest paid maturing 1881	130 00	
Refunds of taxes, 1879	310 45	
Sundry accounts of 1879, paid	998 18	
		$3,820 94

The following is the amount of fines and fees collected from the Police Court for the year 1880 :—

January	$287 75	
February	395 50	
March	241 75	
April	96 00	
May	337 70	
June	226 95	
July	250 50	
August	170 20	
September	235 25	
October	133 25	
November	150 00	
December	207 00	
		$2,701 90
Amount paid to City Treasurer during the year	$2,569 18	
Amount paid for witness fees, cab hire and other disbursements	132 72	
		$2,701 90

Being $1,176.90 more than in 1879. The Council will remember, that in 1880, we appointed a permanent Police Clerk, who has performed his duties very satisfactorily, the result even exceeding estimates made at the time. The Financial aspect of affairs is of paramount importance; it is of moment that every member should endeavor to make himself conversant with the true state of affairs, and, accomplishing this, to use his knowledge in the interest of the ratepayers at large. You are aware that since 1877 there has been a steady decrease in the total value of the assessable property of the city. For that and the following years, the amounts levied upon, and after reductions had been made for losses on collection and non-resident lands, was as follows:—

In 1877	$12,500,000
In 1878	11,400,000
In 1879	10,500,000
In 1880	9,750,000
In 1881	9,700,000

You will thus perceive that there is a shrinkage in 1881 of $2,800,000 as compared with 1877, and despite this decrease, the municipal service has been carried on with a reduction in expenditures, which I shall refer to again. In my first address at the opening of the Council for 1879, I expressed a belief that the assessment of rateable property had reached its meridian, and that hereafter the rule of value and not mere valuation must be applied; further, that we could not for some time expect a valuation of more than $10,500,000

upon which to levy rates. This estimate has proved correct, the figures falling below rather than reaching that sum. This year (1881) the total of the revised roll, subject, however, to the reductions made by the Court of Revision, &c., was as follows :—

	Real Property.	Income.	Personal.	Total.
Victoria Ward.....	$1,375,200	$25,250.	$107,100	$1,508,555
Wellington Ward	4,254,850	170,250	278,250	4,704,000
St George's Ward.....	2,048,325	16,650	68,450	2,133,425
By Ward.....	1,138,850	3,750	24,500	1,167,100
Ottawa Ward	857,500	4,400	18,300	880,200
	$9,675,725	$220,950	$496,600	$10,393,275

With the reductions on appeal and percentage for losses in collection and non-resident lands, the amount will not exceed $9,700,000. Hence it must be apparent that unless policy of scrupulous economy is maintained and strictly carried out, it will be impossible to devote such sums to necessary improvements as the public interest demands. You will agree with me that when a municipality is reduced to the necessity of voting in favor of debenture by-laws for the purpose of applying the proceeds towards the payment of floating cheques and liabilities, or in other words covering deficits, that moment ratepayers may rest assured that there is either a careless administration of affairs or else wilful extravagance and that moment they may also rest assured that the foundation of future civic depression is laid. Those who wish to select a permanent place of residence, those who are looking for a business location, usually consider the rate of taxation, ere adopting a final policy; hence a heavily taxed city, too often means a city whose really necessary public improvements cannot be performed, and whose municipal service requires such close financiering, that those acting as the governing body of the Corporation feel that they cannot do justice to themselves or justice to the Corporation by reason of the stringent economy necessitated under the circumstances. The vast public improvements made in Ottawa during past years, require large outlays to keep them in any kind of respectable condition, and it is incumbent on the representatives of the people, either to allow such improvements to fall into decay—thereby sacrificing large sums already expended—or to maintain them by levying such taxes as will meet all requirements. There can be little doubt that much money might have been saved in the past had there been less sectionalism and manifestation of true zeal for the public welfare. It must therefore be a source of gratification to all sensible people to find a more harmonious feeling animating all classes, and consequently a marked diminution, during the past few years, in such services as create the larger share of expenditure out of local rates and revenue. To illustrate this, allow me to submit a comparative statement of

expenditure upon five different services during the years 1877 and 1878, as compared with 1879 and 1880 :—

	1877	1878	1879	1880
Police Department	$20,075 76	$19,397 41	$17,304 13	$16,686 89
Fire Department.....	21,129 08	19,490 45	12,801 15	12,011 88
Salaries	14,151 37	16,092 89	12,951 37	13,464 76
Printing & advertising	3,465 35	3,586 80	2,368 93	1,571 90
Street improvements ..	29,767 14	13,827 61	15,279 34	14,408 51
Miscellaneous	3,274 55	3,872 76	2,721 30	1,115 21
Total	91,853 25	76,268 01	63,421 22	59,259 15

Thus you will perceive that in the Police Department, Fire, Salaries, Printing and Contingent expenditures a reduction of $28,000 has been made in 1879 and 1880, as compared with 1877 and 1878, the totals being—

1877,	amount expended	$62,086 11
1878,	"	62,440 40
1879,	"	48,141 88
1880,	"	44,850 64

or a diminution of cost for these services of over twenty-five per cent as compared with the two preceding years; this too with local revenue derivable from rates, decreased by over $25,000 each year.

CIVIC DEBENTURES AND CIVIC DEBTS.

It is true we had an apparent surplus in 1880, but that cannot properly be termed a surplus, while there are deficits remaining over from former years, deficits that will necessitate the closest economy until they disappear altogether. It may be well, whilst on the financial subject, to give a concise statement of the corporation's debentures and general indebtedness, together with its assets :—

CITY DEBENTURES AND CITY DEBT.

Debentures 310, issued in 1871, due 1891—Balance	$ 35,000	
Debenture 337, issued in 1873, due 1893	584,000	
Debenture 371, issued in 1875, due 1895—Balance	301,734	
Debenture 398, issued in 1876, due 1896	130,000	
		$1,050,734
Water works debentures : Debenture 331, issued in 1873, due 1903	499,904	
Debenture 357, issued in 1874, due 1904	449,680	
Debenture 409, issued in 1877, due 1907	100,000	
		1,049,584
		2,100,318
(All the above debentures are renewable for twenty years, as provided by the Consolidation Act.)		
The following amount is at the credit of the sinking account, 31st Dec., 1880.....		165,988
Total debenture debt		1,934,330

Brought forward			$1,934,330
From which may be deducted real estate held by the city, as per assessment of 1881 :—			
Victoria Ward Market and lands		$ 2,100	
Wellington Ward Market and lands		32,100	
City Hall building and land		100,000	
Collegiate Institute land and buildings		50.000	
Engine House, St. Paul street		2,500	
City Registry Office		9,500	
By Ward Market Square		74,000	
Engine House, Murray street		2,100	
Anglesea Square		8,400	
Bolton street lots, 10, 11, 12, 13		2,400	
Cathcart street lots, 10, 11, 12, 13		2,400	
Dalhousie street west, lots 1, 2, 3 and buildings		2,700	
Carleton street lot		500	
Metcalfe Square		4,800	
Catheart Square		6,000	
		299,500	
Value of property at fire stations	$31,000		
Office furniture, maps, &c	5,000		
Value of material on hand, Water works dept	13,500		
		49,500	
		349,000	
Less amount due by Corporation on real estate account		42,000	
			307,000
Balance of debenture debt			1,627,330
Floating liabilities: Outstanding cheques, 1870 to 1879		6,351 52	
Outstanding cheques, 1879 to 1880		18,249 70	
		24,601 22	
Overdrawn from Quebec Bank on account rates, 1879-80		76,879 38	
Amount due local improvement accounts		2,966 29	
		104,446 89	
From which deduct the following available assets :—			
Local rate of 1879 still due	$15,300 00		
Local rate of 1880 still due	57,700 00		
Amount due by Public School Board	1,851 17		
Amount due by Water Works Department on sinking fund account	$9,970 44		
Less amount at credit	$7,574 10		
	2,396 34		
Amount due by L. McQuarrie on Market acc't.	1,000 00		
Amount due by Citizens' Guarantee Co. on J. P. Robertson's account	200 00		
Amount due by C. Neville on market account.	500 00		
		78,947 51	
		25,499 38	
To meet this amount there are arrears in the Treasurer's books valued at		25,499 38	
Total city debt			1,627,330

With the permission of the members of the C il, I will refer to civic outlays in various departments for the past eleven years, taking first

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

1869	Police	Department cost	$ 9,025 27
1870	"	"	11,134 44
1871	"	"	10,448 00
1872	"	"	12,538 21
1873	"	"	13,758 05
1874	"	"	15.527 50
1875	"	"	17,699 03
1876	"	"	19,135 22
1877	"	"	20,075 76
1877	"	"	19,397 41
1879	"	"	17,304 13
1880	"	"	16,686 30

With reference to this department, which is controlled by a Board of Police Commissioners, I am of opinion that the statute should be so amended as to allow the City Council to appoint two of its aldermanic representatives as a Police Committee to act in conjunction with the Mayor and the other two Commissioners, these latter being the Senior Judge of the County Court and the Police Magistrate. Questions of vital importance, affecting expenditure of money, as well as admistration of municipal law, frequently arise, and I can truly say, in so far as expenditures are concerned, the two gentlemen with whom I have acted since presiding over this Council, have always kept steadily in view the financial position of the city: nevertheless my opinion is, that it would prove more satisfactor[illegible] representatives chosen by the people were permitted to participate in the deliberations of the Commissioners. The Police Force is at present efficient and active, although not so liberally remunerated as might be desired. I am of opinion that a smaller body of men, with better pay, would result in prompting its members to devote themselves in every way to the public, thus becoming a standing force, thoroughly disciplined and earnestly devoted to the discharge of their arduous duties.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Perhaps in no city in Canada is there a more active, spirited and trustworthy body than the Fire Department of Ottawa. The splendid fire system introduced in 1874 and 1875 (which accounts for exceptionally heavy expenditures during those years) has been greatly improved the men are sober, ready, reliable, and entrusted as they are with the important duty of protecting property, and frequently life, the cost of maintenance is small as compared with other cities and the distances between various business portions of Ottawa. The cost of the Fire Department since 1868 was as follows:

1869	$5,134 95
1870	5,834 24
1871	5,698 82
1872	5,464 00
1873	6,386 04

1874	28,939 00
1875	35,902 17
1876	21,807 02
1877	21,129 80
1878	19,490 54
1879	12,801 15
1880	12,011 88

My impression is, that it will be impossible to reduce this estimate and maintain the necessary force as well as the necessary discipline. The men are certainly not paid sufficient to enable them to provide to any extent for the future; their lives are frequently in jeopardy, their whole time is demanded by uncertainty as to the hour or minute their services may be required, and it is to be regretted that the existing state of civic finances does not warrant a promise of any immediate increase of salaries.

CIVIC SALARIES.

The gross amount of salaries paid to officials connected with the City Hall during past years, and up to the present time, is as follows:—

1869	$ 6,227 00
1870	6,388 00
1871	9,415 80
1872	9,912 20
1873	10,876 88
1874	13,930 13
1875	15,220 23
1876	16,730 19
1877	14,151 37
1878	16,092 89
1879	12,951 37
1880	13,464 76

The reduction is really greater in 1879 and 1880 than appears upon the record, as compared with preceding years. With certain reforms which I shall ask the Council to assist in introducing, my impression is that the services of the staff now employed can be advantageously utilized. In the department of the City Treasurer, the time of employees is fully occupied, Mr. Kirby, the Treasurer, who is an active, painstaking official, being in his department early and late, when Corporation matters require his attention.

CIVIC TAXATION AND POPULATION.

When the rates were $1.77 on the $100, ratepayers imagined they were comparptively cheaply governed, whereas they were paying quite as much, in consequence of inflated assessment values, and "floating-cheque" by-laws being voted, the interest on which is being paid to-day. The following have been the rates since 1876, after which, upon the new assessment system being introduced, Chairmen of Finance found themselves face to face with stern realities:—

Rate of	1876	$1.77	per $1.00
"	1877	1.95	"
"	1878	1.92½	"
"	1879	1.91	"
"	1880	1.92½	"

For 1881, the rate struck cannot be less than 1.91½. Many imagine that there has been a startling exodus from Ottawa, but this is not the case, as the following official figures demonstrate :—

POPULATION.

	1878	1879	1880
Victoria Ward	2,332	2,417	2,582
Wellington Ward	7,041	7,574	7,237
St. George's Ward	4,337	4,278	4,252
By Ward	4,510	4,748	4,342
Ottawa Ward	5,566	5,008	5,912
Total	23,787	24,015	24,025

POPULATION AND VOTES BY WARDS FOR 1880.

	Population.	Votes.
Victoria Ward	2,582	550
Wellington Ward	7,237	1,894
St. George's Ward	4,252	1,055
By Ward	4,342	954
Ottawa	5,612	1,050
Total	24,025	5,503

You may thus perceive that, small though it is, there has been an increase in population since 1878 :

PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS.

With a view towards forming some estimate as to the amount of non-taxable property, ascertaining what it comprised and what revenue it would yield, I have prepared the following digest of exemptions :—

Educational Institutions, Normal and Model School not included	$385,400
Churches	488,900
Charitable Institutions	196.900
Clergy exemptions	54,000
Carleton County property	154,000
Civil Service exemptions	700,000
City property	301,550
Ontario Government, Normal and Model School	145,000
Dominion Government, say	6,000,000
Personal property say	2,000,000
Total	$10,425,750

EXEMPTIONS BY DENOMINATIONS.

	Protestant.	Roman Catholic.
Charatable institutions	$ 57,200	$139,000
Churches	317,300	171,600
Educational institutions	124,000	226,400
	$498,500	$537,700

In this calculation, I have not classed either the Normal or Model Schools or Collegiate Institute. To my mind, it is to some extent a case of being penny wise and pound foolish for those interested in real estate to take advantage of exemptions. All are mutually interested in the extension and

improvement of the city; the community is, or should be, a co-operative association, and every dollar contributed to the municipal exchequer, enables those in authority to inaugurate such works as enhance the value of property, also to reduce taxation and thereby induce residents and business men to become permanent taxpayers, and becoming permanent taxpayers, assist in promoting civic prosperity. Each permanent resident is a consumer, each permanent manufacturer or business man, an employer of labor, the demand for labor giving additional revenue producing power. Property would then be in demand, yielding a profit or interest manifestly more remunerative than land and tenements lying idle or going to decay. We find over $10,000,000 worth of taxable property exempt, whilst the remaining $10,000,000 has to meet all expenditures, thereby keeping taxation at a high rate, preventing necessary public improvements, crushing out general industry and drawing all that vitality from the civic body, so necessary in a young corporation. I have on several occasions given my reasons for believing that Governments holding exempt property should contribute to the local funds in lieu of rates. We loose annually nearly $12,000 on official income exemptions, we furnish a fire brigade, police force, light, side walks and all other conveniences either for public safety or public comfort. All enjoy the benefits alike and should be willing to assist in defraying the necessary expenses; why Governments should not contribute, is a mystery yet to be solved. Ottawa being the Capital of the Dominion, is entitled to consideration, and it is to be regretted some arrangement has not before this been effected, by which street and other improvements of a similar nature might be defrayed by a government contribution towards local rates, as in England and the United States. The subject of exemptions is not confined to any one class, or any one section. All are jointly interested in considering the whole question and in endeavouring to arrive at a practical solution of this very interesting problem. Personally, I have never been in favour or taxing places of worship, for although some, who differ from the doctrines preached, consider it a hardship to have to be virtually taxed for their maintenance, they yet, as members of a community, enjoy the blessings flowing from the wide spread civilization and morality promoted and maintained by the teachings of religion.

CIVIC ASSESSMENT—THE OLD AND NEW SYSTEMS CONTRASTED.

You will remember that the present system of assessing was inaugurated during the latter part of 1876. Formerly, three assessors were appointed by the Corporation at the beginning of each year, the assessment commencing on the 1st of February, the Rolls being returnable to the City Clerk on the 1st day of May. Under that system, it was found impossible to have the Rolls completed within the legal time, for usually it was the 1st of August before they were ready. Consequently, no estimate could be made or rate struck until after this work was completed; thus the Council in the mean time were expending the revenue of the city without having any knowledge of what that revenue was likely to be, except by comparison. This was not only unbusiness

like but really dangerous. The assessment is at present made a year in advance, commencing on the 1st of July and fully completed on the 31st of December. The assessment for the year being always before the new Council, it has enabled those in authority to estimate for the current year, basing calculations upon the revenue thereof; so that every Council permitting expenditures exceeding its revenue, is fully aware of the fact. Formerly, there was some excuse for expenditure exceeding revenue, but at present there is none, unless exceptional circumstances necessitate it. The advantages of the new system over the old would seem to be: 1st. A permanent official during the whole year, with an office where all information relative to assessment can be obtained, and where every grievance, real or imaginary, in connection with assessment, may be heard and errors if existing be rectified. 2nd. A more independent assessment, as the Commissioner and Assessors are, to a great extent, independent of outside influence. 3rd. A more equalized assessment—and this after all is of the greatest importance, each person being compelled to pay his proper quota of the taxes of the city. The Aassessment Commissioner being appointed permanently, naturally makes himself conversant with the values of properties in all parts of the city, as well as gathers information required for assessment; he keeps a record of sales of property taking place from time to time, and is governed accordingly. The office is resorted to by all anxious for information as to the values of property, &c.—every citizen has a full opportunity of making comparisons with other assessments in the city. During the year, whilst the Assessment Commissioner has many opportunities for getting information that could not be obtained under the old system; or, if obtained could not be utilized; he is thereby in a position to make a more equalized assessment. All the information in the possession of the Assessment Commissioner is used when he, with his assessors, makes the land valuation of the city. As many are not aware how the assessment is made, you will permit me to explain, so far as possible. After the appointment of the Assessors, there is formed what is called a Board of Assessors, composed of the Assessment Commissioner and the Assessors. This Board makes out, first, the land valuation of each ward in the city, of every lot according to its frontage, depth, position, &c., so that when the Assessors go to work on the 1st July, they take with them the land valuation as made by the above Board for the whole city; this valuation is made in the office, and under the personal guidance and supervision of the Assessment Commissioner. Thus the improvements are only to be estimated by the Assessors outside, and added to the valuation already made. In order to get an equalized improvement valuation, various methods are adopted, and practical Assessors have no trouble in arriving at a proper basis. You will see by the above, that land and buildings are valued separately, so that a more equalized total value is obtainable. The summer season is the better time for making property valuation. 5th. Our assessment with the above advantages, costs less than under the old system, although many persons think otherwise. The cost of the

assessment in 1876 was $2,150—the assessment for 1881 cost only $1,840, being $310 less than under the old system, with the additional satisfaction of having the work done within the legal time. Ottawa derives a large revenue from the assessment as it is now made, which heretofore was lost to the city. I find this from comparison of the rolls of 1875 and 1876 with those of the following years. The extra assessment of some real and personal property (which was formerly lost to the city) of not more than a dozen ratepayers, contributes at present, and for the past two years, the entire cost of the Assessment Department. This being the case, the Assessment of the city is costing the ratepayers virtually nothing, but, on the contrary has eventuated in a large source of revenue. Formerly, thousands of dollars were annually lost to the city, whilst at the same time, owing to the unequalized assessment, one portion of the ratepayers were paying the taxes of those who were not properly assessed; this, of course, was not the fault of the assessors, but was entirely due to the lax system of assessing, no measurements or other data being then in vogue. The amendments to the assessment law by the Legislature of Ontario, at its session of 1880, have not proved of much service so far as this city is concerned. Section 15-43 Victoria, enacts as follows: "Every corporation whose dividends are liable to taxation as against shareholders, shall at the *written request* of the Assessor of any municipality in which there is or are any person or persons liable to be assessed for income derived from stock in such corporation (such written request to be communicated by delivering the same to the principal officer of the corporation in this province), &c., &c." Now, this corporation cannot possibly control the principal officers outside its own boundries; and even if it could the penalty for refusing or neglecting to comply with the law is far to small, being only $100. Many of the institutions here took advantage of the smallness of the fine, and said, "We will pay rather than give the information required, as by doing so we will save ourselves." This amount, to be of any service, should be increased to $500 or $1,000. It would certainly seem that in making amendments to the assessment laws, practical and experienced men are seldom consulted.

GENERAL IMPROVEMEMTS.

In 1879, about $16,000 was expended for street improvements, including $5,700 for stone. In 1880, the following appropriation was made:—

	Appropriation.	Expenditure.
Stone account	$4,500 00	$3,766 33
Street and sidewalk repairs and street names	8,060 00	9,462 95
Bridge and Main Sewer repairs	1.750 00	712 86
Major's Park	800 00	839 74
Received for work done	441 00	441 00
	$15,441 00	$15,217 88

The Sappers', Dufferin and Chaudiere bridge repairs should have been done last year, but were deferred until 1881, and the remainder of the appropriations

expended on general street improvements. For 1881 the following appropriations, purely for repairs, will be required:—

Stone account	$4,000
Street and sidewalk repairs	7,500
Bridge repairs	2.000
Main Sewer and Drain repairs	500
Major's Park	1,000
	$15,000

Of this amount the City Engineer considers that not one dollar can be expended on new work; it will all be required for repairs, and any new work must have additional appropriations. A large number of the principal sidewalks are in a very bad state and extensive repairs will be required early in the spring. I believe, with many, that the Board of Works should continue to make the repairs where most required, irrespective of ward divisions. If it is at all possible, an agreement should be made with the contractors to refrain from lighting certain lamps during business days, for instance, one in front of churches, instead of two, whilst many of the lamps about the markets are really not required constantly. There are two lamps in front of the Skating Rink, on Slater street, and others throughout the city might, with advantage, be changed to more frequented locations without entailing additional expenses. Last year I suggested that the sewer west of the canal should be so arranged as to admit of frequent flushing; a pipe has been connected with the water main at the west end of the main sewer, at Slater and Lyon streets, and the sewer is flushed out when required. The sewer is reported in good order and repair, and cleaner than in previous years, owing to the large quantities of water passing through. I might call attention to the fact that some of the old sewers throughout the city are in a bad condition, and the most of the private drains connecting with the main sewer are wooden boxes, untrapped, acting as ventilators from the sewer into private residences, thus breeding malaria and too often promoting disease. Another feature of this sewer service should receive attention from the new Board of Works. At present the main outfall sewer can only be utilized for the drainage of property as follows: East of the canal—north of Osgoode street; west of the canal—north of MacLaren and east of Concession street; the Victoria Ward sewer—west of the aqueduct; thus leaving all the land south of Osgoode and MacLaren streets, and west of Concession street and south of the aqueduct without means of drainage into these outfall sewers. The main sewers, as we all know, were constructed at the expense of the whole city, and, as the portions of the municipality above specified cannot possibly derive any advantage from the main sewer, it would seem only just that the property immediately benefitted by proximity to the sewers, constructed as they were out of a general fund, should pay a yearly rate for such privilege. The only method at present of draining property removed from the main sewer, is under the terms of the Local Improvement By-law, and would cost parties availing themselves of it from $25 to $100 each lot, cash payment, or $5 to $20 annual payment for a

term of years. The municipal laws, I imagine, provide for cases of the kind; clause 52 of the Act defining powers of Councils (*Page* 449 *Harrison's Manual*) gives the privileges of by-laws being drafted "For charging all persons who own or occupy property which is drained into a common sewer, or which by any by-law of the Council is required to be drained into such sewer, with a reasonable rent for the use of the same, and for regulating the time or times and manner in which the same is to be paid." It certainly does not appear reasonable that parties close to the main sewer, built at the general expense, should pay less than the parties situated say 260 feet from the same, and who are thus bound to furnish collateral drainage for their property at their own expense, or that parties who can never receive any benefit from the sewers should pay in equal proportion to those receiving all the direct benefits. This subject should certainly be considered as soon as possible. With reference to the existing method of dividing appropriations granted purely for necessary repairs and maintenance of street and sidewalks, into certain specific sums for each ward, I am still of opinion, which experience but strengthens, that although this might have answered some years ago, when immense loans were being floated and the people's representatives revelled in the luxury of unlimited proceeds from debenture sales; but that, under the present *regime*, were appropriations, instead of reaching very large amounts, are cut down to the lowest possible figure, the apportionment system frequently proves pernicious and not promotive of general public welfare. For instance, the cesspools and filth and malaria that, all combined, breed contagious disease, must remain in one ward, if sidewalks and their maintenance require the allotted sum. The system is cast iron, and yet one ward, favored by man and nature, may really be so far advanced as to be able to do without the appropriation, and the money cannot be devoted, even in cases of emergency, to a less favored locality.

THE WATER WORKS SYSTEM.

The really creditable manner in which the Water works Department has been managed during 1880 by the City Engineer and the Water Works Committee, deserves special recognition. In 1879 the collections reached $91,576.20. The system is now in thorough working order, but one seriously weak feature is reported to me by the City Engineer. As most of you know the pumps are arranged to discharge into the main distribution pipe which supplies the two leading mains from the works to the city. The first, or 24-inch main, is carried to near Pooley's Bridge; at this point a 12-inch pipe connects and crosses the bridge to supply the Chaudiere division, and the main is then reduced to 15 inches, extending along Wellington street, the nearest valve to the pump house on this main being opposite Hoy's confectionery, or a distance of about 600 feet from the pumps. The second or 15-inch main extends along Commissioner to Slater street, and the nearest valve is close to the pump house. In case anything goes wrong with the Slater street main, it can easily be shut off close to the works, and all the pumps can be worked into the Wellington street main, if required. But if anything

goes wrong with the Wellington street main between the pump house and Hoys', he Chaudiere supply will be shut off except a small quantity, which can be supplied through a 5-inch pipe passing down Wellington street from Kent street, and only one set of pumps can be made available with the present arrangement of valves to pump into the Slater street main. The engineer recommends that a new 24-inch valve be connected with the 24-inch main, close to the pump house, so that all the pumps can be made available, in case it be found necessary at any time to supply the city solely through the Slater street main. The cost will be about $500—and as the matter is one involving very great interest, and as the city might at an hour's notice be deprived of its water supply, doubtless the Water works Committee will act promptly with referenceto it. In connection with the subject it would be well for the new Chairman of the Water Works and a committee to wait upon the Minister of Public Works with reference to the supply of water furuished by the city to the Government. Since the agreement for a five years supply from 1877 to 1882, at $9,000 per annum, was entered into, extensive improvements necessitating an increase supply have been made in the Government buildings, Rideau Hall, and other points. Assessing the Government property at the lowest possible rate for water purposes—say $3,000,000, it will be seen that the charges are lower than to private citizens. A close estimate made by the City Engineer places the quantity of water used at 345,000 gallons per day or 126,000,000 gallons per year. It would seem then that tne following rates should be paid —Public buildings, $12,600 per annum: Rideau Hall, Post Office, etc., $1,000 per annum. I have no doubt the Hon. the Minister of Public Works will meet the city in a fair and equitable manner, but would suggest immediate action.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISES.

It will be remembered, that in October 1879 the city voted a bonus of $200,000 to the proposed Toronto and Ottawa Railway. The company afterwards sought to secure exceptional legislation, and in conjunction with a committee, I visited Toronto, ultimately defeating the clauses considered as affecting the city's interest. Subsequently, a bonus was again submitted and carried, last month, the promoters guaranteeing to commence the work next May. If this is done, beyond doubt a vast impetus will be given to the city, and the great railway enterprises now in course of arrangement, if prosecuted, will make a remarkable change in the future of the capital. With the Toronto & Ottawa and Grand Trunk Railways, we would have two competing lines to Toronto and the Western States. With the Canada Pacific and the Sault Ste. Marie road built as a commercial line, and the various provincial lines connectins with the Northern Pcific, we should have two competing lines to the great North West. The Q. M. O. & O. and Grand Trunk. give us two competing lines to Quebec, and should the Coteau Railway be built, that line would secure us a through line to New York, whilst the Rome and Watertown and Black River and Utica Railways furnish two more competing lines to New York—all these lines being competing for seaboard freights. Our railway

position would be a most enviable one, freights, which have already fallen, would be still lower; Ottawa with its great water power is one of the few available points east of Rat Portage, and there is therefore no reason for ratepayers to be despondent. Our duty will be to do all in our power to induce capitalists to construct these roads, to be economical, keeping in mind the fact, however, that falseeconomy does not mean public spirit, nor is it promotive of those interests tending to build up and populate a city.

GENERAL CIVIC AFFAIRS.

I cannot too strongly impress upon committees the importance of having all documents belonging to the Corporation placed in the city vaults. In some cases I find deeds, mortgages and other papers scattered throughout the law offices, some having been there for six or seven years. Again, the bonds codified and the Finance Committee should ascertain if money cannot be borrowed for less than 8 per cent.; we are at present paying that rate upon over $22,000, on market property account. In fact it would be well to consider a scheme for paying off such sums as are now costing interest, and creating a sinking fund by a regular charge against revenue until the whole is liquidated. I am satisfied loans could be secured at 6 per cent., if the effort is made, and the money saved might then be devoted to some better purpose. As you are aware, the system of collecting market fees by an Inspector has been abandoned, and the old contract system again inaugurated. Mr. Langrell, as Inspector, proved most trustworthy, his resignation being accepted with very great reulctance by last year's Council. I would again urge upon the Finance Committee to insist upon all accounts being sent in once a month, and the City Solicitor's and other accounts of that character, rendered at least every three mounths. You are aware that the Government took possession of Cartier Square after the city's lease expired. An effort should be made to induce them to take Major's Hill, keeping it in repair and open to the public. Another matter that must be attended to is a claim made by the Government for arrears of interest on market lots; when visiting the Minister of Public Works, the Committee would do well to discuss that question with the proper authorities. In connection with these matters, I have to bear testimony to the indefatigable and satisfactory manner in which the City Engineer, Mr. Surtees, the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Lindsay, and the Assessment Commissioner, Mr. Pratt, have discharged their duties. I am satisfied that three more faithful officers cannot be found in any city in the Dominion. And now, gentlemen, allow me, as is my custom, to refer to the revenue which may be anticipated for 1881, basing the calculation upon what I consider perfectly safe estimates. Of course, when a Chairman of Finance is appointed, I am sure we will do all in our power to assist him in keeping the expenditure well within the revenue:—

EXPENDITURE 1881.

Police Department	$17,000
Fire Department	13,500
Carried forward	$30,500

Brought forward	$30,500	
Salaries account	14,000	
Markets	1,400	
Board of Health	3,500	
Street lights, &c., gas, $10,000, naptha, $4,000	14,000	
Street improvements	14,000	
Major's Hill improvements	1,000	
Market instalments and interest	5,500	
Interest account	7,000	
Jail and jury expenses	8,900	
City Hall	1,000	
Printing, advertising and stationery	1,700	
Corporation grants	2,000	
Charity account	1,200	
Election expenses	600	
Inquests	200	
Insurance	500	
Registry Office	100	
Legal expenses	600	
Contingent and miscellaneous	1,600	
		$109,300
Corporation debentures on By-law 310	2,100	
" " 337	35,800	
" " 371	18,300	
" " 398	7,900	
" Sinking Fund	11,700	
		75,700
Waterworks debentures on By-law 331	30,400	
" " 359	27,000	
" " 409	6,000	
		63,400
Waterworks maintenance and repairs	5,000	
" pump house salaries	2,450	
" Collector's Office	3,600	
" Fire alarm expense	1,600	
" Contingencies and miscellaneous	1,000	
		13,600
		$262,000

REVENUE 1881.

Market tolls	$9,640		
Market stall rents, &c	4,500		
Licenses, liquor	12,500		
Licenses, carter	1,000		
Auctioneer and other licenses	1,000		
Dog tax	600		
Grades in streets	60		
Clergy reserves	200		
Police Court fines and fees	2,000		
Waterworks, revenue account		31,500	
[Assessment on which to value—$9,700,000]		85,000	
Fifteen mills on this		145,500	
			$262,000

Gentlemen of the Council, at the risk of wearying you, I have entered very fully into every detail connected with the municipal service. I am convinced you will recognize the importance of each member becoming conversant with city affairs, and my labor will be doubly repaid, if I know that you appreciate it, or that the city derives any advantage therefrom. In return, I ask your confidence. I further ask you to forget sectionalism, to forget personal considerations and unite in accomplishing the good work which the ratepayers elected you to perform. I shall know no friendship that interferes with the city's interests; I shall have no aim, save to promote the prosperity of the Capital, and when the year closes, it will be a proud moment for all of us to be in a position to give a good account of our stewardship, and to receive from those who have confided in us, assurances that no trust was betrayed, no advantage taken of the power delegated. I thank you, gentlemen, for the attention and courtesy extended, and sincerely hope each member, whilst sitting at this Council board during the year, may realize, on each and every occasion, when called upon to vote or to speak, that that vote or that speech belongs to the city whose representative he is. (Applause.)

red
in-
ith
ate
ur
d-
ed
s;
en
to
ve
of
d
is
n
e